Far too often, community members and organizations are approached for feedback or involvement in research long after planning begins. This limits the impact that community-based insight and expertise can have, and prevents the development of trust-based, respectful relationships between researchers and community organizations and members. This issue has become more apparent than ever amidst the rapid pace of research surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement Program has developed the Community Equity Research Review Coalition to address this problem – serving as both a source for high quality community input on research proposals and protocols as well as a trusted communication channel between researchers and community stakeholders. A community voice and considerations for health equity into clinical research and strengthen community-academic relationships throughout Massachusetts.